

To so cheat death!
 As from somewhere so deep . . . so deep . . .
 so deep . . . down inside . . .
 From this Marine's heart, but came his battle cry!
 To somehow stay alive . . .
 And from that moment on, he was gone!
 Moving up and moving on!
 As this Marine got up and ran towards recovery . . .
 For he had a life to live,
 and to this our world so much more to give . . .
 Oooh . . . Rahhhh! Jar Head!
 For, it's far better to die for something . . .
 than to live for nothing at all!
 And that's why you joined the Core
 And your fine heart so answered that most noble call!
 For some people are but put upon this earth,
 To So Teach Us! To So Reach Us! And So Bless Us,
 with all of their fine worth!
 As this fine son from Jacksonville,
 gives us all of us such a thrill . . .
 As you has so shone us what so comes first!
 For this United States Marine,
 is one of the greatest things our nations has ever seen!
 The only secret he could not so keep!
 Is what so runs in your most magnificent heart so very deep!
 That which so out shines them all!
 For Marcus, you won't cry and he won't crawl!
 As he you can climb any mountain, of them all!
 And if I ever had a son, I'd wish he'd have a heart half as tall!
 Surely, Marcus you are but one of Florida's Most Brightest of All Son's!
 Because, up in heaven you need not arms nor even legs to run . . .
 And that's were you are going Marcus, one day my son!
 For you have so made our Lord so proud,
 with all of your inspiration and faith bestowed upon us all now!
 Maximus . . . Marcus . . . you've put the I in Intel this day!
 But, there are No Secrets . . .
 all in what you magnificent heart so says!
 For you are one of our Nation's, America's Best!
 Ooo . . . Rah Jar Head

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 537, 538, and 539, I was absent due to travel delays and inclement weather. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 537, and "yea" on rollcall Nos. 538 and 539.

CELEBRATING FIRST BOOK'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in honoring First Book on the occasion of their twentieth anniversary and celebrating

their work on behalf of children in need, in Illinois and across the country.

First Book is a nonprofit that provides brand-new books and educational resources to schools and community programs serving children from low-income families. Since 1992 they have distributed over 90 million new books to kids in need.

First Book was founded twenty years ago by Peter Gold, Elizabeth Arky and Kyle Zimmer. After working with children in some of the poorest neighborhoods in the Nation's capital and seeing how their futures were limited by their lack of access to books and resources, they created First Book.

Ms. Zimmer continues to lead the organization today, and her vision and passion have helped First Book grow from a local nonprofit to a global social enterprise with an unsurpassed record of success.

First Book is set apart by more than their deep commitment to the children, teachers and community leaders they serve. By working with the publishing industry to create new and innovative ways to get books and resources to children in need, they are creating a groundbreaking and self-sustaining model that benefits both the donors and the recipients.

First Book is also committed to empowering teachers and program leaders, ensuring that the educators closest to the children choose the books that have the greatest chance of turning those young people into lifelong readers.

I ask the House to join me in honoring First Book and further ask the members to introduce First Book to teachers and community leaders in their home districts. The more schools and local programs join First Book's network, the closer we will come to achieving equity in education for all our children.

HONORING THE SOLDIERS, AIRMEN AND AVIATORS IN THE BATTLE OF DIEPPE 70 YEARS AGO

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor the sacrifice 70 years ago this month of more than 3,600 Allied soldiers, airmen and aviators in the Battle of Dieppe during a critically pivotal point in World War II. The Dieppe Raid, also known as Operation Jubilee, was an Allied attack on the German-occupied port of Dieppe on the northern coast of France on 19 August 1942. The assault began at 5:00 a.m. and by 10:50 a.m. the Allied commanders were forced to call a retreat. Over 6,000 infantrymen, predominantly Canadian, were supported by limited Royal Navy and large Royal Air Force contingents. Among Allied soldiers who took part in the Battle of Dieppe were 50 U.S. Rangers, including one from Michigan, and two additional civilian support personnel from my State. Almost 60 percent who made it ashore in that crushing battle 70 years ago were either killed, wounded, or captured.

This battle became a critical learning point for the Allies who less than two years later launched D Day in June 1944 in the invasion that eventually led to the defeat of Nazi Ger-

many. "I have no doubt," said Lord Mountbatten, who helped plan the raid, "that the Battle of Normandy was won on the beaches of Dieppe."

On August 18, one of our esteemed former colleagues, former Congressman and former state Senator James Barcia, and Viet Nam veteran Terry Watson, who is supervisor of Bangor Township, Michigan will represent the United States during memorial ceremonies in Dieppe, France. The ceremonies will honor the courage and sacrifice of the men who took part in Operation Jubilee, including three Michigan men who have since passed away. They are: Pfc Stanley Bush, Walter A. Bresnahan and James C. Moseley.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me today in honoring those whose sacrificed 70 years ago at Dieppe, France and helped win the war that saved our Nation from the tyranny of Nazi Germany.

TRIBUTE TO LAURA FROEHLICH

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Laura Froehlich. Laura passed away on Wednesday, August 1, 2012. As a pillar of the Moreno Valley and Riverside County military communities, her sudden passing was a shock to all and she will be dearly missed.

Laura served honorably in the Air Force and began volunteering in 1985 through the Moreno Valley Military Affairs Committee, which she eventually chaired. March Air Reserve Base (MARB) was and still is heavily used by Marines from nearby Twentynine Palms and Camp Pendleton bases. As increasing numbers of troops began to flow through the MARB facilities in the buildup to Operation Iraqi Freedom, Laura wanted to ensure that the troops leaving and returning from war received a timely farewell and warm welcome, a far cry from the public indifference and occasional contempt experienced by veterans returning from Vietnam, such as her father. She had organized a similar effort during the Persian Gulf War of 1991.

With the help of her team of more than 100 volunteers, she transformed MARB's austere Hangar 385 into a welcoming center where troops could relax and enjoy good food and entertainment during their 6–8-day layovers. Her motto was, "When they come to March, they're taken care of."

Laura, fondly known as the "Flag Mama" because of her patriotic attire, made it a point to be present for the arrival and departure of virtually every MARB flight carrying troops to and from the Central Command Area of Responsibility. She even purchased a motor home to park in the lot near the hangar so she could go quickly between home and the base. At the end of 2008, Laura had individually greeted more than 200,000 men and women on 4,000 flights. When the troops saw "Miss Laura" at the base to shake their hands and give them a hug, it was how they knew they were home.

Regardless of the recognition she received, Laura remained humble and modest. Upon returning home to California from the Pentagon

in Washington, DC after accepting the Spirit of Hope Award in 2009, she remarked:

I keep getting thanked for something I shouldn't be getting thanked for . . . What I and my awesome group of volunteers do, we do it because it's the right thing to do. The men and women who put their life on the line every day for my freedom, for my grandkids to play safe in my backyard, they're the ones that deserve to be thanked.

It is hard to imagine that Laura had any free time in addition to her tireless work at MARB yet she always found time to serve the community in other ways. She worked with many aid agencies including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Salvation Army, and was the longtime coordinator of Moreno Valley's Fourth of July Parade, the "Trees for Troops" campaign, and the Annual Family Day picnic at March Air Reserve Base for all the military services, including 500 Navy Reservists who drill at Navy Operational Support Center Moreno Valley.

Laura is survived by her husband Larry, daughter Laurice (Don) Souron, and two granddaughters, Loral Hite and Taylor Hite.

Laura will always be remembered for her incredible work ethic, generosity, contributions to the community and love of family. Her dedication to our men and women in uniform, family, and community is a testament to a life lived well and a legacy that will continue. I extend my condolences to Laura's family and friends; although Laura may be gone, the light and goodness she brought to the world remain and will never be forgotten.

WEST END BAPTIST CHURCH 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a legacy of faith in Virginia's Third Congressional District. This year, West End Baptist Church in Hampton, Virginia is celebrating its 120th anniversary, and I would like to take a moment to reflect on the history of this esteemed institution and its contributions to the greater Hampton Roads community.

The story of West End Baptist Church begins on December 12, 1892, when Robert and Mary Herbert sold a piece of land forty feet by one hundred feet to Joshua Morris, Isaiah Dillard and John Seton, Trustees of West End Baptist Church, for \$75.00. It was recorded that the land be used solely for the purpose of building a church.

In 1901, the West End Baptist Church was up and running under the leadership of Pastor Linas. The fellowship began in the old Bates School House that was located where the Beau Brummell building now stands. After the death of Pastor Linas, Pastor Beverly Garner became his successor. He saw a need for a new sanctuary for his followers. The congregation began to build the new church at 2916 Shell Road. Unfortunately, Pastor Garner passed away before he could see his dream completed. However, the new church sanctuary was completed in 1903 under the leadership of Pastor Bray. After Pastor Bray's tenure, Pastor Hall was selected as the next leader and Pastor Atkins succeeded him.

In 1965, Rev. Hallie Richardson, Sr. became West End Baptist Church's leader. He served faithfully until September 1990. During his ministry, the membership flourished. Due to the growth in the congregation, there again was a need for a larger sanctuary. The first service in the new sanctuary at 2413 Shell Road took place in July 1982, and West End Baptist Church has remained there to this day.

Pastor Rufus Hill succeeded Pastor Richardson in September 1990, and he served until 1999. Guest ministers rendered services until April 2001. During this time, West End also saw its first woman, Edith Green, appointed to the Diaconate. Rev. James Gray was officially installed as Pastor on November 2, 2003 and served until 2007. Pastor Paul Sims was elected to serve as the 10th Pastor of West End Baptist Church in November 2008.

Over the years, the West End Baptist community has continued to grow and flourish. Its members have offered programs in the Youth Ministry, Outreach Ministry, Culinary Ministry and more. In addition to Sunday prayer, the church offers Wednesday Noon Prayer Assembly. The Church is home to numerous bands and choirs. The church has also organized many functions including Children's Church, new converts' and new members' orientation classes, a monthly Men's Fellowship Breakfast, hot meals for the hungry and an Annual Homecoming.

As West End Baptist Church gathers to celebrate this historic milestone, the church can truly remember its past, celebrate its present, and focus on its future as "the friendly church by the side of the road, in the heart of the community with the community at heart." I would like to congratulate Pastor Sims and all of the members of the West End Baptist Church on the occasion of their 120th Anniversary. I wish them many more years of dedicated service to the community.

THE "CONGRESSIONAL REPLACEMENT OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ENERGY-RESTRICTING AND JOB-LIMITING OFFSHORE DRILLING PLAN" (H.R. 6082)

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, domestic oil production is at an 18 year high, and President Obama's "All of the Above" energy strategy has reduced our reliance on foreign oil from 57 percent of consumption during the last year of the Bush Administration to 45 percent today. We now have 50 percent more floating drilling rigs operating in the Gulf of Mexico than we did before the BP oil spill—and more rigs operating in the United States than the rest of the world combined. The Administration's existing 2012–2017 offshore drilling lease plan makes more than 75 percent of our offshore oil and gas resources available for drilling, and the Interior Department reports that oil and gas companies already possess 26 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico containing 18 billion barrels of oil that have yet to be developed.

Yet here we are for the eleventh time in the past eighteen months wasting valuable floor

time on another drill bill that has absolutely zero chance of becoming law when our nation's fiscal cliff looms, and Americans are looking to their government for effective leadership so we can accelerate economic growth and put people back to work. These fundamental defects are further compounded by the conspicuous absence of any safety or royalty reform in this legislation, and the majority's insistence on gutting environmental review for the additional lease sales this legislation requires—including lease sales off the mid-Atlantic coast as early as 2013.

I support the responsible development of our nation's oil and gas resources as part of a comprehensive "All of the Above" energy strategy that emphasizes a greater use of renewables, efficiency and other clean energy sources over time. The forced lease sales in this legislation do not constitute responsible development, and the "Oil Above All" strategy advanced by the majority in this legislation and throughout this Congress is ultimately a prescription for energy dependence and economic decline.

I urge a "no" vote.

HONORING THE TRADITION OF VETERANS DAY

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2012

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, honoring our veterans and their families for the sacrifices they have made to protect the freedoms that we enjoy as Americans is not only proper, but a privilege that should always be cherished.

On November 11, 2012, Birmingham, Alabama will mark its 65th consecutive year of serving as a national model for the commemoration of Veterans Day. Birmingham's Veterans Day ceremonies are the oldest and largest in our country. The legacy extends across generations.

Birmingham's reputation as "the cradle of National Veterans Day" first took root in the final months of World War II.

Originally, November 11 was recognized as Armistice Day to solemnly commemorate the end of World War I, which was supposedly the "war to end all wars."

Barely more than two decades later, America's soldiers would be again called to duty, this time to confront the gravest threat to individual freedom in world history.

As World War II ended with the defeat of the Axis powers, Birmingham's Raymond Weeks, a Navy veteran, began a new mission that would define the rest of his life: ensuring that the service and sacrifices of all of America's men and women in uniform would not be forgotten.

In 1945, the concept of a National Veterans Day became fixed in his mind. In 1946, he personally took a petition and a proposed program, "National Veterans Day 1947," urging the creation of a national holiday to honor all veterans to General Dwight Eisenhower, who was then the Army Chief of Staff. In 1954, then-President Eisenhower signed legislation formally establishing November 11 as Veterans Day.

In presenting the Presidential Citizens Medal to Raymond Weeks on Veterans Day